

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Heather Barrett
908-685-0315

Rebates up to \$200 Available!

SOMERVILLE – For a second year, the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) are offering rain barrel rebates of up to \$200 for residents of the Peters Brook Watershed, which encompasses parts of Somerville, Bridgewater, and Raritan. In addition to a money-saving water conservation measure, rain barrels help the environment by reducing the amount of water going to our streams and rivers during heavy storms. The Peters Brook begins in Bridgewater Township and enters the Raritan River near the Route 206 bridge about 3 miles upstream from the water intake for New Jersey American Water Company. The Peters Brook Watershed is highly developed, and is comprised of approximately 30% pavement, rooftops and other impervious surfaces. Rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces flows to our streams, picking up pollutants along the way. Rain barrels are one item in the toolbox for managing stormwater runoff. Mayor Hayes said, “Bridgewater is committed to “Thinking Green” and even installed a rainwater recapture system at our new municipal complex. Installing a rain barrel is a simple and responsible way to protect and improve the local environment while recycling one of the world’s most precious resources.” Mayor Gallagher of Somerville and Mayor Liptak of Raritan agree and support NJWSA’s Peters Brook Watershed initiatives.

Funding is Limited!

This is a first come, first served opportunity. The Peters Brook Residential Rain Barrel Rebate Program began last summer, and significant interest has been generated in the program. Rain barrels must meet specific criteria, such as minimum capacity, overflow, and spigot location. This pilot program will run until September 2012, based on program funding. Complete program information and a map showing the eligible area is available on the Regional Center Partnership’s website, www.regionalcenterpartnership.org. Call NJWSA at 908-685-0315 x234 or email rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org to confirm eligibility.

Build a Rain Barrel Workshop Announced!

A “Build a Rain Barrel” workshop will be held at Walck Park off Walnut Street in Somerville on Thursday, April 19 at 6pm. Staff from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) will show participants how to build, install, and maintain their own rain barrel, which will collect water from residential roofs during rain storms.

Since 2010, NJWSA and Rutgers Cooperative Extension have hosted five similar neighborhood-based workshops in Somerville, Bridgewater, and Raritan that drain to the Peters Brook. This year, the workshop will still focus on residents who live in the Peters Brook Watershed, but anyone interested in installing a rain barrel may participate. “This region has had below average precipitation through the winter months. Now is the time to invest in a rain barrel” said Ken Klipstein, NJWSA’s Director of Watershed Protection Programs.

If you would like to build a rain barrel, the cost is \$38 and pre-registration is required. For participants that live within the Peters Brook Watershed boundary, the rain barrel would be eligible for the rebate program, once installed and inspected. If you would like to register and reserve a rain barrel, please call 908-685-0315 x231 or e-mail hbarrett@raritanbasin.org. For additional information on the workshop and the Peters Brook, visit www.raritanbasin.org.